



Course Number & Title – THE331 Issues in American Christianity

Department – Bible & Theology

Contacting Your Professor – To contact your professor, select “Inbox” from the global navigation bar on the left-hand side of your screen. After selecting “Inbox,” click the pencil in the top right of your screen to begin your message. Type in your professor’s name and your message before sending.

Delivery – Online

Course Description – This course considers the historical, cultural, and theological developments of Christianity in America. Attention is given to how the American experience and context has shaped the beliefs and practices of the American church as well as how the American church has impacted American culture. Issues from both past and present experiences will be explored. (3 credits)

Course Prerequisite(s) – None

Student Learning Outcomes – As a result of this course the student will do the following:

1. Analyze the various events from the past and the present that have shaped American culture and the American church.
2. Assess the impact of American culture and American contexts on the development of the American church.
3. Identify and critically evaluate the influences that have shaped the student’s own hermeneutic and theology or the hermeneutic and theology of the student’s church or denomination.

Course Requirements

1. *Textbook(s)* – Book information and a price comparison tool can be found at lbcbookstore.com.
 - a. Sweeney, Douglas A. *The American Evangelical Story: A History of the Movement*. Baker Academic, 2005. Print ISBN: 9780801026584.
 - b. Hansen, Collin, and Andrew David Naselli, eds. *Four Views on the Spectrum of Evangelicalism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Print ISBN: 9780310293163.
2. *Materials*
 - a. None.
3. *Assignments*

- a. **Discussions** – You will participate in a few discussions on assigned readings and viewings each week for the first 5 weeks of the course. The specific expectations are contained in each activity. You will need to create your initial post as early in the week as possible to allow your peers ample time to respond. All responses to others' posts must be made by Sunday at 11:59 pm ET. Together these discussions account for 30% of the final grade.
 - b. **Evangelical Expressions** – You will summarize and assess each of the chapters in Hansen and Naselli's *Four Views on the Spectrum of Evangelicalism* in brief reflective essays. The specific expectations are contained in each assignment. Together these essays account for 30% of the final grade.
 - c. **Evangelicalism & American Culture Group Exhibit** – You will collaborate with a group of your colleagues on an exhibit that will present your group's findings on an assigned topic that explores the relationship between evangelicalism and an aspect of American culture from the past 50 years. The specific expectations are contained on the assignment explanation page. This project accounts for 20% of the final grade.
 - d. **Evangelical Lessons Final Essay** – The culminating assignment of this course is a 5-page essay that explores 3 vital lessons you think the American evangelical church needs to learn from its nearly 300-year past (1730s–present). The specific expectations are contained on the assignment
4. *Exams and Quizzes*
 - a. None.
 5. *Extra Credit*
 - a. None.

Course Procedures

1. *Course Practices* – This online course uses readings, discussions, and other resources and activities to aid and measure the learning of its objectives. Work through the weeks in sequential order, completing the learning explorations and assignments. Please take these opportunities to interact with the instructor and fellow students about the course content, the learning experience, and the relationships between the material and one's own experience.

Sequence – As with all online courses at LBC | Capital, this course is organized around a particular number of weekly units. Work through these units in sequential order, completing the learning explorations and assignments. Feel free to work ahead on explorations, but be sure not to move so far ahead that material for which an assignment is scheduled (such as a discussions) is no longer fresh in your mind. Successful completion of this course will require 21 hours per week on average for each of the 6 weeks to accomplish the learning activities and assignments.

Communication – The instructor will occasionally send important individual and class-wide messages either through the Canvas messaging system or to your individual LBC | Capital email account. You are responsible for the information conveyed in these notices and should check the course's website and your LBC | Capital email account on a *daily* basis.

2. *Participation Policy* – Attendance and participation for this course take the form of completing of all readings and assignments in a timely manner, contributing to discussions with charity, and actively collaborating with fellow students when required.

3. *Grading Policy, Rating Scale, Assignment Weights, etc.* –

<i>Excellent</i>	A	=	94–100		B-	=	80–83		D+	=	67–69
	A-	=	90–93		C+	=	77–79	<i>Passing</i>	D	=	64–66
	B+	=	87–89	<i>Average</i>	C	=	74–76		D-	=	60–63
<i>Good</i>	B	=	84–86		C-	=	70–73	<i>Failure</i>	F	=	0–59

The weight of each assignment in relation to your final grade is allocated in this way:

Discussions	30%
Evangelical Expressions	30%
Group Exhibit	20%
Final Essay	20%

4. *Late Assignment Policy* – There is no late work accepted for this course.
5. *Make-up Policy* – There is no make-up policy for this course.
6. *Ally Center Statement* – The Ally Center is LBC | Capital’s hub for academic services, resources, and accessibility. The academic services include disability services, writing services, and academic mentoring services and are available at no additional cost. To schedule an online or on-campus appointment, or for information regarding resources, locations, and hours of operation, visit lbc.edu/ally.

- a. *Disability Services* – LBC | Capital is committed to creating an educational environment that is inclusive and accessible, in compliance with the guidelines of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students choosing to disclose a disability must contact the Disability Services Office to discuss reasonable accommodations.

After speaking with the student and reviewing documentation, reasonable accommodations will be determined. It is in the student’s best interest to contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible prior to each new term since professors cannot provide accommodations without verification from the DSO and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. More information and disclosure forms are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Please note: Students should register with the Disability Services Office each term for which accommodations are desired; accommodations from the prior semester are not automatically carried over.

The Disability Services Office can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5383 or DSO@lbc.edu. The confidential fax line is 717.560.8261.

- b. *Writing Services* – The Writing Services is available to help any LBC | Capital student with writing assignments from any course. Students can schedule a one-on-one appointment with professional personnel or peer mentors at any point in the writing process. Writing Services include: assistance in brainstorming and outlining, development of ideas, critique of partial or full drafts, and/or review of formatting and citations. Appointments are available both on campus and online. A variety of writing resources are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Writing Services can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at WritingCenter@lbc.edu.

- c. *Academic Mentoring Services* – Academic Mentoring Services (AMS) provides academic services at no cost to any current undergraduate LBC student. Professional personnel and peer mentors come alongside students to assist with major projects, time management, review of course content, test-taking skills, and study strategies. A variety of academic resources are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Students may make academic mentoring appointments by phone at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at AMS@lbc.edu.

- d. *Contact Information*

Location	Email	Phone
Lancaster	AllyCenter@lbc.edu	717.569.7071 ext. 5389
Philadelphia	AllyPhilly@lbc.edu	215.329.5400 ext. 5753
Washington D.C.	AllyDC@lbc.edu	301.552.1400 ext. 5806
Online	AllyCenter@lbc.edu	717.569.7071 ext. 5389

7. *Academic Integrity Statement* – As followers of Christ, we need to be fully committed to honesty and truthfulness in all aspects of our lives, including in our academic lives. Therefore, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any way. Students are responsible to familiarize themselves with LBC's Academic Integrity Policy and adhere to it. It is located in the Student Handbook.
8. *Statement on Self-Care* – College in general is a rich and fulfilling experience, full of opportunities for students. Along with this abundance of opportunities comes the challenge of maintaining a healthy life balance characterized by productive tension, a sensible schedule, and time for rest. Productive tension, at times, can be compounded by unexpected life challenges, causing unproductive levels of stress. This can lead to feelings of sadness, increased anxiety, and an overall lack of focus. For this reason, LBC | Capital strongly encourages students to care for themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually during each academic term and throughout their journeys. Everyone benefits by support in times of struggle so students are also encouraged to seek help promptly by talking with professors, College staff or the Counseling & Career Center (C3) about life challenges as related to academic performance and to seek advice regarding available supports inside and outside of the LBC | Capital community.

Course Resources

1. *Technology Difficulties* – The Help Desk is available to help you with computer and technology problems and questions. Call 717.560.8200 ext. 4357 (HELP), email help@lbc.edu, or visit lbc.edu/helpdesk.
2. *Library Resources* – The library subscribes to numerous databases to provide access to scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, eBooks, newspapers, magazines, and much more. Online resources are accessible anywhere on campus or remotely 24/7 using your LBC username and password. To access these resources, go to lbc.edu/library. The library website also includes links for students to request research assistance:
 - CHAT NOW is for immediate assistance – usually from a non-LBC librarian.
 - ASK US is for information from an LBC librarian within 24 hours (Monday–Friday).
 - SCHEDULE A MEETING is for arranging an appointment with a librarian, either in-person or online.

